Shenandoah National Park

Park Emergency Number (800) 732-0911

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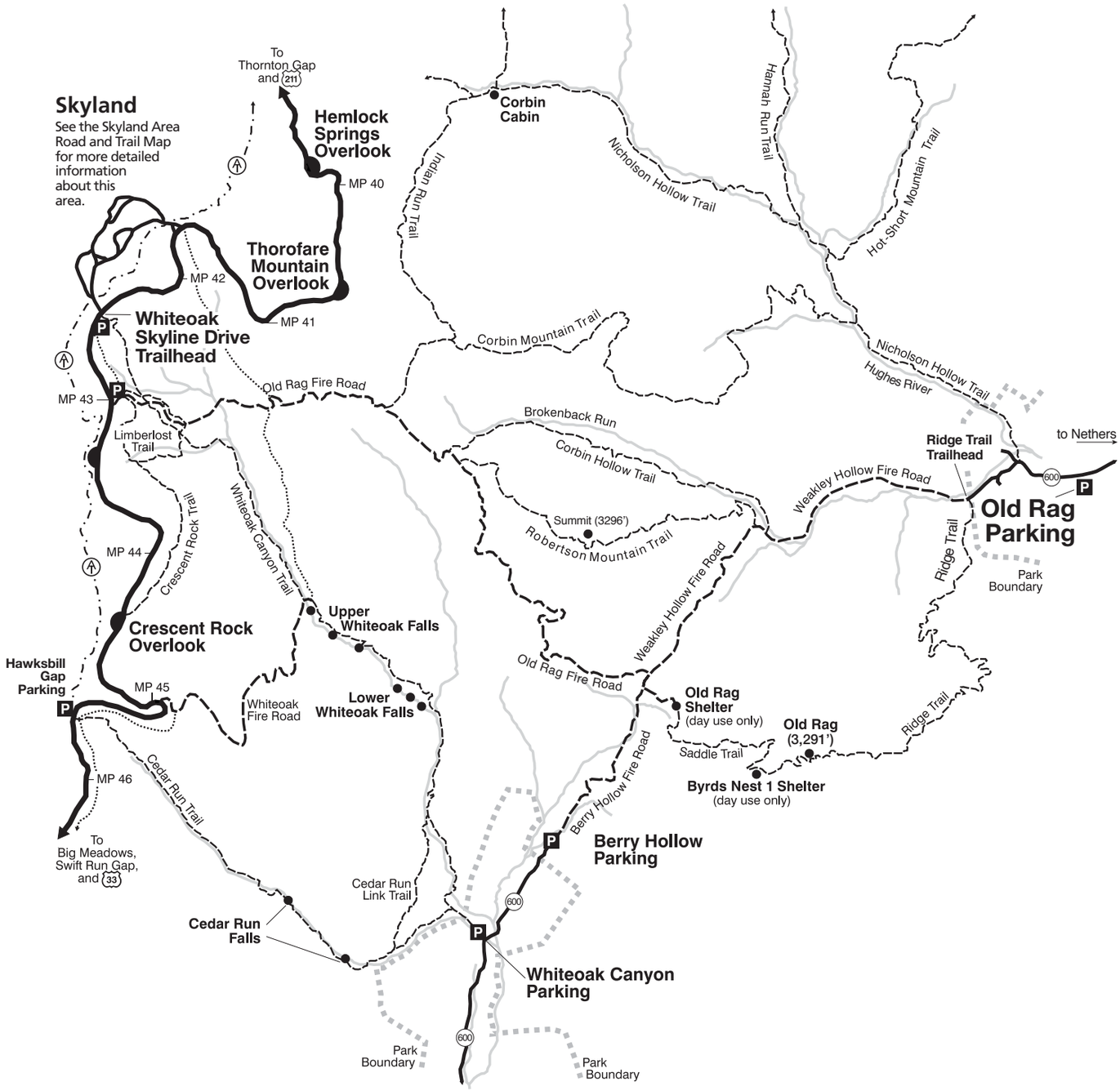
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Whiteoak Canyon Area Road and Trail Map

Park Information recording: (540) 999-3500
www.nps.gov/shen

Look for Trail Markers

You'll find these trail markers at all trailheads and intersections. The metal bands are stamped with directional and mileage information.



Whiteoak Parking Area Skyline Drive (mile 42.6) to Upper Falls – 4.6 miles round trip to upper falls, the highest of the Whiteoak cascades at 86 feet. Return trip is very steep. Consider your physical condition and available time before continuing past the upper falls. Add an additional 2.7 miles round trip (1100' elevation change) to lower falls and return.

Cedar Run/Whiteoak Circuit (mile 45.6) – very strenuous 8.2-mile circuit hike. From Hawksbill Gap, take Cedar Run-Link-Whiteoak-Whiteoak Fire Road-Horse Trail. Multiple waterfalls and cascades. Be sure to bring water.

Whiteoak Canyon from Boundary Trailhead – 2 miles round trip to lower falls; steep and challenging 6 miles (1100' elevation change) round trip to upper falls. Return before crossing the large metal bridge above the upper falls.

Note: *Round trip hikes proceed to a destination and return by the same route. Circuit hikes begin and end at the same point without retracing steps.*

NORTH

- SKYLINE DRIVE
- PAVED ROAD
- FIRE ROAD
- STREAM
- FOOT TRAIL (BLUE BLAZE)
- APPALACHIAN TRAIL (WHITE BLAZE)
- HORSE TRAIL (YELLOW BLAZE)

Leave No Trace Preservation through education: building awareness, appreciation, and most of all, respect for our public recreation places.

Hiking Whiteoak Canyon

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Whiteoak Canyon is a popular hike in Shenandoah National Park. The Skyline Drive Trailhead for this hike is at mile 42.6 near Skyland.

This hike can also be accessed from the park's boundary (driving directions below). Boundary parking is limited. Parking is not permitted along the road or on private property.

Fees
Visitors hiking Whiteoak Canyon from the boundary must have a valid Shenandoah National Park entrance permit. Seven-day permits or yearly passes may be purchased from rangers, when present, or via self-pay at the Whiteoak parking lot at the boundary trailhead. Thanks to a Federal Fee Demonstration program, 80% of your entrance fee is returned to support previously unfunded maintenance, resource management, visitor services, and trail rehabilitation projects.

Hiking Whiteoak Canyon
This trail boasts as series of six waterfalls, with the uppermost fall being the highest at 86 feet.

Safety
Take plenty of water and wear sturdy shoes. Food, extra layers of clothing, and a flashlight are also recommended. Do not leave the trail or climb on wet rocks. Many people underestimate the amount of time and energy necessary to visit all 6 waterfalls and return to the correct parking lot. Allow enough time to complete your hike before dark. Consult the trail map carefully to be sure you return to your vehicle. **There is no public transportation between the Skyline Drive trailhead and the boundary trailhead.**

Pets
Pet owners have the special responsibility of following the park regulations for pets. Pets must be kept on a lead no longer than 6 feet while they are in the park. This is for the protection of the park, its wildlife, for the pet's safety, and the safety of others.

Directions to Whiteoak Canyon Boundary Trailhead
From Sperryville, follow Route 211 to Route 522 south for .8 mile. Turn right on Route 231, follow 10.2 miles to Etlan, turn right on Route 643. Follow for 4.5 miles and turn right onto Route 600, proceed 3.5 miles to the parking area.

From Madison, Route 29 Business, take 231 north for 5.6 miles to Route 670 at Banco. Continue 3.6 miles to Route 643 in Syria. Follow .8 mile on Route 643 to Route 600. Continue on Route 600 to the parking area.

Backcountry Camping
There are extremely limited opportunities for backcountry camping in the Whiteoak Canyon area. Camping is prohibited in Whiteoak Canyon between the Skyland-Big Meadows Horse Trail and the Cedar Run Link Trail. The remaining areas are steep, rocky and not suitable for camping. Park boundary limitations must be observed and neighbors' property rights respected. Please do not trespass on private property.

A Backcountry Camping Permit is required and regulations are strictly enforced. The permit can be obtained at park entrance stations, visitor centers, or at a self-registration station. The nearest self-registration station is at the Old Rag Parking Area near Nethers.

Detailed hiking maps can be purchased at park visitor centers, entrance stations and from some local merchants in the Whiteoak Canyon area.

Leave No Trace of your visit. Pack out all trash and do not disturb, damage, or remove wildlife, plants, rocks, or historical artifacts.

Map available online at www.nps.gov/shen